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La Mission Populaire
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VOLUME XXXXVII

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HERE AND THERE

Last spring, M. Chastand issued a large illustrated folder in the interest of the Mission's Vacation Colonies. By the courtesy of *Le Christianisme* 6000 copies of this folder were enclosed in the issue of August 8th. Interested readers immediately began to send in small donations and all told nearly 10,000 francs were received at the Paris office.

Visitors to St. Quentin last summer found Mlle Prevost-Brouillet more enthusiastic than ever over her work and fairly glowing at the development of *Stadt Coligny*, the D. V. B. S. on the high plateau outside of the city.

The new well which had to be sunk to 150 feet now holds a continuous supply of water 12 to 15 feet deep.

In digging the well at *Coqueréaumont* a much less depth was needed as the geologist recommended locating it at the lowest part of the grounds from which the water will be piped to the *Château*.

The musical evening at *Pierre Levec*, which M. Bertrand has made an annual affair, took place on June 19th before an audience which filled the lower auditorium. In addition to being the faithful and capable director of the work at Grenelle, M. Bertrand is a musical genius and has fallen into his natural place as leader of the Mission's orchestra and choir. One gets a glimpse of the man's spirit in the citation from St. Francis of Assisi which he put at the head of his invitation, "In the heavens filled with dark clouds the larks still sing." The programme consisting of sixteen selections, the musical numbers being interspersed with recitations, was divided into two parts, between which refreshments were served in the refectory in the midst of much good fellowship.

The sympathy of all who have followed the work of Pastor Ferret, at Roubaix, will be felt for him in his shattered health which will necessitate his giving up of this important post which he has made one of the most efficient stations of

the Mission. M. Ferret has never recovered from the terrible strain of four years in a German prison camp, though it is hoped by the Paris Committee that after some months of rest he will be able to give the Mission elsewhere the benefit of his superlative abilities.

The annual Christmas card of the Association, which is sold for the benefit of French orphans, is now on sale at the bureau, 1713 Sansom Street, Philadelphia, as well as through local auxiliary officers. The price is 10 cents and the tradition of an attractive card is again maintained.

The Paris Committee has been enlarged by the addition of three new members, Messrs. Gordon L. Berry, J. Faivrek and Desbrousses.

The name of Esbly-sur-Marne will be missed from the list of provincial stations. This little post grew out of a recent passage of *La Bonne Nouvelle*. Years ago a small church was organized at Lagny nearby as the result of the passage of *Le Bon Messager*. The work at Esbly has now been incorporated into that of the Lagny church and thus the future of both organizations is assured.

As indicated in an earlier number of the RECORD, the hall in Ménilmontant could not be released and accordingly the Mission's post in that old quarter has had to be given up. Attention is called to the tribute on another page to the work in this little old *salle* by M. Chastand in his annual report. The RECORD would add its tribute to the years of faithful and successful service at Ménilmontant on the part of Mlle de Garis.

The work for the bargemen in the basins of the Seine, begun last year, is a continued source of gratification and interest. During the year, M. Claerhout, of *La Bonne Nouvelle*, distributed more than 500 copies of the little publication, *The Boatman's Friend*, in addition to many copies of other evangelical and temperance sheets, as well as Gospels.

"For the most part," writes M. Claerhout, "the children who are brought up on the canal boats get no instruction except from their parents. What an influence the New Testament may

have when it serves as the book from which they learn to read! As for the boatmen themselves, they come in ever larger numbers to our meetings when they are passing the night in our neighborhood. A navigation engineer came to see us to encourage us in our attempts at moral and social uplift by means of *The Boatman's Friend*. A special invitation was extended to me to attend a meeting of the canal boat war veterans and to bring 100 copies of the magazine for distribution among those who had not yet seen it."

Our friends of the Canadian McAll Association held their forty-third Annual Meeting on May 2d, last. Between the morning and afternoon sessions a luncheon of seventy covers was served. Donations were reported in the respective amounts of \$500 and \$200, the former a memorial from Mr. Ralph Gibson toward the Holiday Fund at Grenelle, the latter a gift from Mrs. Florence E. Short.

Not long since, one of the great French newspapers interviewed seventy-four scientists to obtain their replies to the question, "Is there incompatibility between Science and Religion?" The inquiry gave the following results: It is possible to be both a scientist and a believer and many of the scientists declared categorically that, although a little scientific knowledge was apt to lead men away from God, a great deal will make them return to Him.

Just as the RECORD goes to press, a letter is received from Mrs. Applegate, the Treasurer of the Sewickley Auxiliary:

"We are all greatly grieved by the loss of our splendid President, Mrs. Charles W. Clarke. She was such a wonderful woman, interested in every good thing and her heart was truly in the work of the McAll Mission."

On behalf of the Philadelphia Board and of the American McAll Association, the RECORD would extend heartfelt sympathy to the officers and members of the Sewickley Auxiliary and to Mrs. Clarke's bereaved family.

THROUGH THE GATES

The 15th of July, 1929, was a memorable day at the *Château de Coqueréaumont*. An early train from Paris brought to Rouen the President and two other members of the Philadelphia Board, the Honorary President, President, Director and several other members of the Paris Committee with their wives and friends. The eight miles to the *Château* were quickly covered and it was an expectant group that sat down to lunch in the room which last year served as the girls' dining room.



ENTRANCE TO THE CHÂTEAU
(Photograph taken by Dr. Margaret Bronson)

Following the luncheon and a number of short speeches in French and in English everyone set out, with M. Chastand as guide, to visit the beautiful property and carry out the afternoon's programme, the unveiling of the nine memorial tablets which had recently been put in place. Each tablet was concealed by an American flag and the unveilings were done by the French and American ladies in the group.

In the main hall of the *Château*, when the flag was withdrawn, the plaque was disclosed announcing the gift of electric light to the *Château* itself and all the other buildings on the property. The translation of the inscription runs:

"That it may give light to all who are in the house."

—Matt. 5:18.

To the Glory of God and in memory of the two children
of John Frisbee and Anna W. S. Keator

Walter

August 14, 1892

August 19, 1892

Ruth

August 25, 1896

September 3, 1896

At the left of the entrance to the grounds, in the midst of the beautiful trees, was inspected next the new refectory where a fortnight later 170 children would be fed. Beside the main door of this building, when the flag was pulled aside, was seen the plaque with the inscription:

In loving memory of Beatrice Barnes

New Haven, Conn., 1914-1927



MEMORIAL REFECTORY

This building has accommodations for over 200 children and, though simple in construction, is perfectly adapted to the use for which it was erected. At one end is a splendid kitchen and the cooking is done on a range bearing the initials "U. S. A." M. Chastand bought this from the army stores left in France at a saving of something like a hundred dollars.



THE LITTLE CHILDREN'S "PRÉAU"



MME CHASTAND UNVEILING THE TABLET OF THE PEYTON DORMITORY

Directly across the driveway is the *Pavillon Virginia* and its plaque reads:

The gift of Mrs. John H. Strong
in memory of her little girl,
Virginia Strong

This *pavillon* was one of the farm buildings which, after a thorough overhauling, including the laying of a concrete floor, constructing large windows and a room for one of the colony counsellors, provides a dormitory for sixteen boys.

A little below this dormitory is the dispensary, fitted up by the Washington Auxiliary in memory of one of its most faithful members, Isabelle Campbell. Besides the dispensary proper and a room for the nurse, two sections have been divided off, one for boys and one for girls, respectively.

The tablet reads:

To the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Mrs. Isabelle Campbell
An American who loved French children

En face, on the other side of the driveway, is the *préau*, or roofed-over out-door gymnasium, for the smallest children. This is a most useful addition to the outfit and has the advantage of being in plain sight from the windows of the *Château*, so that the tiny tots may be always under the eye of one of the monitors. The tablet of the *préau* reads:

In loving memory of Adelaide Hillhouse,
the ascription which is repeated on the *préau*, three times the size, at the foot of the garden and where the older children will find shelter on rainy days.

A little behind the *Château* and set in the trees on either side are two other dormitories of sixteen beds each, one for larger boys and one for larger girls, both constructed with a view to air, light and safety. The concrete floors and walls reduce fire risks to the minimum and the exceptionally large windows insure abundance of fresh air. The one to the left of the *Château* bears on its tablet the ascription:

In loving memory of Anne Burrows
for over thirty years the Secretary
of the Buffalo Auxiliary

The one at the right is the gift, in the name of the Junior Auxiliaries, of

Mrs. William C. Peyton, New York



MRS. KELLEY UNVEILING THE TABLET OF THE BURROWS
MEMORIAL DORMITORY. M. CHASTAND, M. BEIGBEDER
AND PASTOR BACH IN THE FOREGROUND

The chapel, in which the owner of the *Château* gathered his family and retainers, has been redecorated, furnished with a small organ, table and chairs and every night, when the children are asleep, the director of the summer colony assembles his counsellors for a half hour of evening prayer. For the fitting-up of this chapel the Mission is indebted to the generosity of Mrs. Nathan Bronson, of New Haven,

In loving memory of
Annie Smith Churchill

The day preceding these ceremonies was the French national holiday. On that day, Pastor Lafon, of Rouen, took a

group of 125 members of the Rouen *Fraternité* to *Coqueréaumont*. Those who rode in the large motor cars paid their own way and others went on bicycles or by other conveyances. It was a delightful way of passing the holiday far from the dust and noise of the big city. After a happy day in the park and under the trees, the group gathered on the lawn in front of the *Château* and following several hymns two short addresses were made, one by M. Chastand and one by M. LeGoff.

* * * * *

The alterations and new constructions at *Coqueréaumont* were so many and elaborate that it was impossible to start the colony until August 1st. At that time, 170 children, in charge of M. and Mme LeGoff, assisted by a score of splendid monitors and monitrices, or colony counsellors, arrived at the *Château* for a two-months stay. The children's joy must be left to the



THE CHAPEL

imagination. What the vacation colonies accomplish for the bodies and souls alike of those who attend them has been often referred to in these pages.

Coqueréaumont is more than a fresh air home. It is a health resort in a double sense and a training school the effects of which will be felt by many a half-century hence. Another year the place will be open from the 1st of July and over 200 children will breathe its physical and spiritual atmosphere.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

EMMANUEL CHASTAND

"In our work of evangelization we marvel as we deal with human souls to see the many means God has for drawing these souls to Him," so begins the report of the directrice of Alfortville. I can add in all sincerity, after reading the reports from all our co-workers, recitals of miracles realized, that I, too, verily marvel and I may add that I am grateful to God who has so blessed our work and grateful toward you, dear fellow-workers who, though burdened with a formidable task, go courageously forward to bring the light of the Gospel into the darkness.

I. HUMAN MISERY

We do right to look squarely in the face the sad, tragic circumstances in which the pioneer of the Gospel carries on his work; to gaze into the abysses of misery and vice brought about by the frightful power of evil. As one of our co-workers writes: "We have the feeling of descending deeper and deeper into human wretchedness. The trying winter has made us feel this more than ever. Last evening, for example, we came upon a hovel where the father, mother and child, all three ill from trouble in their chests, had eaten nothing for many days, kept going only by their fever. I believe that we arrived just in time to save them."

"The other day," writes M. Lafon, "I was called into a wretched home in which I found four children and three women, one of the women in bed with two sick children. I had been

asked to take a picture of the smallest child of twenty months, suffering with meningitis. Within ten minutes in this same hovel I was witness to two horrible attacks of convulsions. But one must visit the tenement courts of Rouen, like the Crime Court, in which are housed eighty families, in order to get an idea of the tragedy of depraved humanity." * * *

"Before all this distress," writes another co-worker, "distress of which I try to sound the depths more and more each day but which appears to be without bottom, my heart at times almost stops beating with anguish."

Ah, dear friends, I understand this suffering only too well, but I envy you the honor which you have in participating thus in the suffering of Christ. Bless His Name that you have the privilege of being associated in His passion, for the day when your hearts cease to suffer you will no longer be worthy to be servants of Him Who was the "Man of Sorrows!"

II. MIRACLES

He who sows in tears shall reap in joy! "My heart is overflowing with joy," writes one of the younger directors, "for I have seen miracles." The conversion and rehabilitation of these poor, torn creatures, so utterly down and out that only a Christian could believe them capable of resurrection, these are, indeed, miracles.

Here, for example, is a woman who had two children by one man and left him because of his evil habits and who was not yet married to her present companion by whom she had had another child. This man was so impossible to live with that she decided to leave him also. What was to become of her left alone with her three children? And how helpless one would feel were there no God. Yet, this hell has become heaven. These dwellers in the Crime Court are converted. Their union has been solemnized before God and their home is now a Christian home filled with joy.

Again, here is a man from Nantes, a wretched slave to his evil habits, suffering and causing suffering all about him; though decided to take his own life, he, nevertheless, sought a last chance to save himself by asking help at the *Fraternité*.

He, also, is converted and becomes a happy man and his home a happy home. His former employer, who at our request took him back, writes, "This man was the worst drunkard I ever knew, but he has become my very best workman. What a miracle you have accomplished."

III. THE WORD OF GOD

Among the things which figure in the year's history of the Mission, the outstanding fact is the preëminence of the Word of God. It is not necessary to praise the excellence of the Divine Word when one hears a little girl at the *Maison Verte* exclaim in her prayer: "Oh Lord, I thank Thee that I have a Bible. Now I shall be able to read Thy Word every night." Listen to this converted woman on her bed of straw, whom rheumatism has isolated little by little from the rest of the world: "Presently I shall not be able to go any longer to the meetings, but I have my Bible and every morning at five o'clock, as I awake, I read and pray!" A young woman, of St. Nazaire, said: "I dearly love to read my Bible. If by chance I am in a great rush, I carry my Gospel with me and read it in the street." Another, at St. Nazaire, said to the evangelist: "I am so happy that you have come to see me for now you can explain to me a passage in the Gospel which so far I have not been able to understand."

At *La Villette* a very poor woman bought a Bible which she paid for ten *sous* at a time. Many more examples might be cited which would show you with what enthusiasm the Word of God is read and studied by those who formerly were utterly ignorant of it. It would not be amiss to cite the case of an indifferent Protestant family who suddenly set out to study the Holy Scriptures in order not to appear ignorant before their Catholic friends who in their turn came to a meeting to ask the speaker to explain the Bible to them.

IV. THE SICK AND THE DYING

How many of the sick, how many of the dying have gone on toward the unknown not in anguish but with calm and with joy as to the eternal realities! At Roubaix, a young woman, paralyzed from her twelfth year, never utters a com-

plaint, but, on the contrary, her face lightens up with the brightest expressions of faith at the singing of the Gospel hymns. "I ask but one thing of God and that is that He take me home. I should be so happy there," said an aged woman in her affliction. On her bed of suffering which had grown to intense agony, a poor woman was defending herself against a priest who was making her unhappy by declaring that the Protestant Bible was false. She explained simply, "The Lord has promised me rest for my soul. I shall go to Him. I am ready. I shall be happy when He says, 'Come!'" "I have no fear," said another dying woman. "Death is sweet. I am so happy at the thought of finding again my loved ones." * * * Then in a voice choking with emotion she sang, "All the day long I bless God."

To die after a life of many struggles is easy, many might think, but what will you say of this little boy, carried to the hospital seriously ill and who had been dreaming of going to *Coqueréaumont* of which his friends had told him such wonderful stories. "But suppose the Lord should take you to Himself?" asked Mlle Gardiol. Immediately he replied calmly, "Oh, that would be still better!"

Ah, dear co-workers, how glorious is your reward for having faithfully proclaimed the Gospel when you restore to God these redeemed souls.

V. OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

It is, indeed, a noble ministry that brings hope to the discouraged and lifts up those who have fallen, but it is an even greater accomplishment to enlist childhood and youth in the service of Jesus. The religious instruction given in our Bible Schools and in our Christian unions, as well as the beneficent atmosphere of our vacation colonies, yield happiest results. These little ones who often cannot count upon any certain affection in their own families have sore need of Jesus. Here is a poor, little chap with an impossible mother who when she goes out leaves him nothing to eat. He comes to Grenelle almost straight from prison for, dying of hunger, he committed several small thefts in order to get himself arrested, because in jail he would at least have something to eat!

There are those who are utterly ignorant of the name of Jesus. At *Arcueil* only ten out of seventy knew the Saviour's name. I myself questioned two little girls of eleven years in this suburb which is called the pagan zone: "Did you ever hear anyone speak of God before coming to the Mission?" "No *Monsieur*, never," and when I asked the second, she replied, "Yes, *Monsieur*, when my father swears!" On the other hand, the names of *Lenine* and *Trotsky* are well known. Saddest of all is the case of those children who are brought up to hate anything and everything religious.

It is needless to add that where religious education is entirely lacking, the elementary foundations of morals are often also wanting. I think just now of a big girl whom I was obliged to reprove for her conduct. She did not even know the meaning of the word "purity." Under such circumstances it is no wonder that many mothers, made wise by sad experiences and anxious to spare their children the sorrows which they themselves have known, should confide them with joy to us. "Bring up my children according to the Gospel and do for them that which I have never been able to do," said one mother. "Happy it is for us to have you," cried another.

It is with joy that we realize more and more how sensitive the souls of little children are to the Saviour's love. A tiny member of the Band of Hope, who in order to remain faithful to his promise underwent teasings and scoldings, said to his teacher: "What consoles me is that if Jesus had seen me, He would have been happy!" Many children because of their fidelity have been the cause of the conversion of an unbelieving father. How can anyone resist the joyous songs of a Band of Hope child? At *Nantes*, two heads of families were saved by the perseverance of their children. In their enthusiasm these children show none of the false shame which often keeps adults silent. Many reports emphasize their character of propagandists. "They certainly have a missionary impulse," writes *M. Sabliet*, and he adds that his Sunday School scholars exchange their credit cards not for prizes which are their due but for Gospels to use in their colportage. At *Rouen*, a gamin who for a long time refused to put his foot inside the *Fraternité* became such an enthusiast that without saying anything he bought a little

printing outfit and made prospectuses which he distributed in his school. From a village four kilometers from Nemours, a girl of eleven every Thursday brought to the Bible School twelve to fifteen children. A public school teacher asked of her class, "Who can recite something by heart?" A little fellow stood up and the walls of the schoolhouse heard the beautiful words: "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son." Who knows whether this child of *La Villette* may not awaken the soul of his teacher?

They know how to pray, too. "O Lord, make me obedient to my mother, even when she bids me do things that I do not understand." "O Lord, help me to be obedient." "O Lord, grant that there may never be another war." "O Lord, as Mamma washes my body, wash my soul." Their prayers also make them victors over their temptations. Here are two little dramas of conscience. A boy of Montmartre who had earned a few *sous* ran to the candy store. Meeting a blind man, he thought he would give him his sous then, he said, the devil tempted him, but he prayed to God and won out. A touching incident is that of a child at the *Maison Verte* who, knowing that a cadet must "love and serve," abandoned the idea of avenging himself on a comrade and in order to melt his heart took his punishment in his place.

Trifling incidents, people may say, and yet would to God that many of those who call themselves men knew as well how to follow the laws of heart and conscience.

They know how to love, too, these little ones. They love their teachers, as for example a rebellious little fellow who after a prayer made this promise to his teacher: "I will never be a fool again." One day a poor man wandered into the playground in the *rue de l'Avre* hoping to pick up a coat. The children saw him and of their own accord they pooled all their *sous* which they were to have spent for lunch and gave them to the old man. "I have stopped going to the movies and eating desserts in order that the poor little negroes may have a happy Easter," said another as he handed over his savings. A boy from the *Salle Centrale* who had not a *sou* to contribute voluntarily gave his small cardboard automobile to these same negro children.

Alas, when our children grow up and the struggle for life begins, we are sometimes saddened to see the world steal their souls away from us. Nevertheless, often when the moral struggle becomes most tragic, the Gospel proves its power.

Our Boy Scouts have yielded a goodly number of catechumens in training for the Lord's table. Some of our young men, before going to their military service, of their own accord request us to give them religious instruction. The hall in *rue de l'Acre* counts in its Young Men's Union an athletic champion of France, a soldier. Come from an atmosphere hostile to religion, he wanted to add to his physical exercise the training of his soul. He has brought with him a dozen of his comrades and one of them said, "We find here something which is lacking in our athletic organization."

The work among the older girls is perhaps the most difficult of all. Nevertheless, we have the joy of seeing many of them remain faithful. I think at this moment of that particular girl who lives alone with her mother who is always drunk, but who despite all is the soul of her union. Also of another young woman, a stenographer, who was discharged for the third time because she was a member of our *Fraternité*. She is the daughter of a functionary who died of alcoholism after seeing his wife die of mortification. She has four brothers. The three oldest have no interest in the Gospel and are bad characters, prison birds, only the youngest being a Christian like his sister. Listen also to this beautiful testimony: "One of our young women fell sick. Her employer, a woman, came to inform us of the fact: 'What is your religion?' said she, 'for my employee who was leading a bad life has been saved by you! I should like to know myself what Protestantism is!'"

The enthusiasm of our young people is quite beyond praise. Our young men and young women on last All Saints' Day distributed more than 60,000 tracts and Gospels.

VI. THE "FRATERNITÉ" AND THE "SALLE"

Our larger institutions, *Fraternités* and *Solidarités*, have worked with zeal. It is impossible to state how necessary are the *Foyers du Peuple* of which M. Lafon writes: "Placed as they are in populous centers, they alone are capable of catching the

heartbeats of the workingman; they alone are capable of understanding him and of bringing to him the Gospel which saves." I do not know of one of our *Fraternités* which has "run aground." When, two years ago, the Committee opened a *Fraternité* in the new and hostile community of Arcueil, it was a veritable venture of faith. But how great has been the reward. Just a fortnight ago, nearly 700 persons crowded into the hall already enlarged. Everywhere, as at Arcueil, the Mission's *Fraternités* have won the esteem of the population and gained respect for the name of Jesus Christ. Everywhere they carry on their splendid work of education, of uplift, of conversion and of salvation. When one describes them as "makers of men," the definition is perfectly true.

The primary interest of the *Fraternité* is in the spiritual development of its members. However intense the social work carried on, this is never forgotten. Prayer meetings, classes in Bible study and the gathering of converts about the Communion table these are of first importance in the minds of the workers. And this is true not only in those posts where churches have grown out of the work, as at Grenelle, the Central Hall, Nantes and Nemours, but also at an establishment like the *Maison Verte*. So we see fulfilled again and again the saying, "The spirit of true *fraternité* leads to the Communion table."

It is perhaps even more necessary to speak of the little posts of the Mission where behind the windows of a former shop the Gospel of God's love is preached to smaller audiences. At Ménilmontant, at La Villette, at Alfortville, at Nice, work is carried on so sincere, so useful, so blessed that one would gladly multiply to the limit "*les salles*" Mac-All (the McAll halls).

"Do you know the price of a soul?" runs one of our beautiful hymns. Listen to this declaration emanating from the little Ménilmontant *salle*: "Every year a soul has been saved!" "A soul saved!"—an eternal value! And how many others are there here and there who have been drawn to Jesus, comforted and made steadfast in their fidelity. In little corners of the great Paris, our halls are as asylums for the distressed, as refuges for souls which the churches cannot reach, where the

outcast feel themselves loved and where those who are without friends, alone in the world without support, are enveloped in tender care. "How can one help feeling upheld in the darkness when one speaks of redeeming love?" writes M. Lockert. "Weariness ceases to count, the little audience ceases to count, one feels that Jesus is with him and, even if there is only one Samaritan woman to hear the marvelous words of life, to realize her need of these and that she can be uplifted from the depths and led out into the heights, makes one speak with joy, with love."

To all of which I add my own testimony, namely, that the recitals of miracles accomplished in our little halls have truly transported me with admiration for their apostolic directors. It is quite natural that we should feel some anxiety in regard to these small *salles*, for it is not always possible to renew our leases, but it will be a sad hour when we have to give them up and see the Gospel replaced by Mammon. In another month we must move out of Ménilmontant. Where shall we go? Where will the little group of genuine Christians be able to express their zeal for Christ? For the tiniest shop a rent of 40,000 francs is asked. But we count on God to overcome our difficulties and we remind ourselves that the word "impossible" is not Christian.

The *Salle Sébastopol* continues its daily work of evangelization. The funeral chapel pursues its work of consolation. How many there are without faith and without hope, like the young mother made desperate by the death of her little girl. At the St. Ouen cemetery she threw herself on her child's tomb as a last gesture before taking her own life * * * but God led her to the little chapel outside and there, as M. Bertrand stated, she received the revelation of the love of God and threw herself at the Saviour's feet where she found rest and peace.

VII. THE SPIRIT OF BROTHERHOOD

One of the most striking things in all our work is the spirit of Christian brotherhood which animates many and leads them to share their sorrows and their joys. When one is ill, the others pray for him, or if it is a mother they offer to care for her

children, or to help with the housekeeping, or do the washing. All of which is particularly touching when the matter concerns members of the Mothers' Meeting, or even more so when it is a case of grandmothers. What a comfort it is for these poor, old souls, isolated in this great Paris, to have friends who love them come to their help.

At the first meeting of the year at La Villette, M. Lockert took as his text: "That which I have, give I thee." What could these poor, but brave friends have to give, they who had need of receiving almost everything! When the meeting was over, all but one went home. This was a poor man who came forward to ask what he could give. He had absolutely nothing except a card for a night's lodging. But this he surrendered to an older man, even poorer than himself who was shivering on the steps of a church. Then he led him to his lodging house where he would be warm for the night while he himself went out into the snow. When M. Lockert asked him if he had not regretted his act, he replied, "I did it for God."

VIII. THE DOWNS-AND-OUTS

A man, a creature of God shivering on the steps of the Church! That is to say, the very sill of his Father's House! What sorrow for the Heavenly Father that one of his children could be so abandoned. At this moment of exceptional cold we opened the halls of Grenelle and *Bienvenue* for those without shelter. These came to us by the hundreds to receive food and warmth and they found also a welcome and in our hymns and talks comfort for their souls. "One has more than a stomach, one has also a heart," said one of the most unfortunate of all. "Why do they do such things when they do not have to," asked another. Why? One need only to lift his eyes to the motto on the wall: "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden," to understand that we were only doing our Master's will.

IX. VACATION COLONIES

Let us bless God also for our vacation colonies where our children are strengthened in body and soul alike. The daily

contact with their Christian teachers forms their characters and they give their little hearts to Jesus. Eight hundred and sixty-nine children of the Mission have this year tasted the joys and the blessings of the country, the mountains, and the sea. Hundreds more, however, ought to be snatched from their surroundings, often miserable, both morally and physically, and we are looking to our Christian friends for much needed resources. In August last, the new colony at *Coqueréaumont* was opened. This year 150 children will be there at the same time and next year 200. We would say a warm "thank-you" to our friends in the United States who have made us this beautiful present and of our French friends we would ask help to send to the *Château* the little children of France. Those whom we have not been able to accommodate in the colonies for want of adequate funds have been gathered together in D. V. B. S. at our various posts. Of course, this is not the same thing as the open fields, but it is better than the dangerous idleness of the street for the 980 children enrolled.

(To be continued)



MIDSUMMER AT THE MISSION'S COLONY AT LA BERNERIE

THE SECOND YEAR AT ARCUEIL

RENÉ LE GOFF

There has been so much said about the varied character of the working population of the immediate suburbs of Paris that frequently and without evil intention this population has been calumniated. One is always hearing about the "red belt" and there are many who seriously believe in troops of men with red ties, armed to the teeth for the next revolution.

It is true that the suburbs are, on the whole, "red," but this is not the same thing as saying that those who live there are extraordinary beings. To those who are acquainted with these vast agglomerations of workingmen, or those communes which are gradually becoming overpopulated, the outskirts of Paris appear as a place of suffering and of misery. There are no trim little homes surrounded with gardens, there are only hovels, houses of wood built by the father of the family—rabbit hutches as they are sometimes called! Often these homes are nothing but rebuilt *roulottes*. Many families driven out of Paris by the horribly high rents cannot find a decent house outside the walls and naturally alcoholism, tuberculosis, debauchery and misery prevail.

It was altogether worthwhile to move into the midst of such a population, morally and religiously isolated, in order to bring the light of the Gospel to bear upon those whom no



ANNUAL KERMESSE AT ARCUEIL

one seemed to care to teach or to educate. For two years our evangelical efforts at Arcueil have given us the deepest satisfaction and hold out the largest hopes. It was to the sick, restless and the lost that the Master went and this fact we keep always in mind.

What have we been able to accomplish? Little enough, but we have come into close contact with human wretchedness. By means of our dispensary and in our visits we have seen at close range the most atrocious misery, homes destroyed by alcoholism and debauch, and these we have sought to save. Naturally, we have been occupied with human bodies. There are cases in which it is necessary to give bread before speaking of God. Was it not essential, for example, to drag out of her tragic situation a mother whose husband had died and who with four children of tender age, the oldest eight and the fourth newborn, had not, in the depth of winter a sou to live on? Was it not necessary to demonstrate that in order to put into practice the Gospel of Christ, one must give brotherly help to those who suffer?

The *Fraternité* has been for many the refuge, the home of welcome, where one knows he will not look for help in vain. To awaken this confidence is a large part of our work. To evangelize, this is, indeed, the nature and aim of all our efforts—to seek to make men, to transform hearts and to awaken consciences, to make the light of the cross shine before human souls, to make them love life, life good and pure.

Our different functions at the *Foyer* and our visits have brought us many rich and deep experiences.

THE SUNDAY PREACHING SERVICE

Our Sunday evening evangelistic service makes weekly progress and is a subject of constant gratitude toward God. As we look back to the beginning of this meeting, we can simply express our joy over its advance, forty to fifty out of this heterogeneous population now coming regularly. Among some of our friends there have been true religious experiences. For example, a Communist, and there are Communists still in Arcueil, who came to ask for a Bible: "I want," he said, "to read and study this book, for I heard you read some verses from it which are, indeed, beautiful and have made me think

deeply." Again, here is a workingman's home, the husband, an unbeliever, and his wife a fervent Catholic who came with a humility which could only prove the absolute sincerity of their purpose to follow Christ. Some weeks since, the young wife said to me, "My husband has become a veritable evangelist at home." Another Communist said to M. Bonifas, "Since I have come to the *Fraternité* I have become a changed man." No comments are necessary upon such personal histories, but I must record the facts.

On Good Friday evening, we conducted a service entirely religious with slides depicting the Saviour's passion. Friends from Montrouge who were present were struck by the intense interest of the audience. Great was the change between Good Friday, 1928, and that of 1929!

THE MONDAY EVENING CLASS

Some of our *clientèle* found the preaching service of Sunday evening insufficient. Many of them insisted on another meeting where, as they said, one might study more "seriously" some of the problems of the spiritual life. Naturally, we could but accede to their request. Up to the present time, we have made a special study of conversion and of prayer. What has struck us the most in the course of these meetings is the sincerity of our friends and their ardent longing to know the truth. Their questions are almost without number, so great is their desire to learn. May they, indeed, succeed in finding Him Who never deceives, but Who always loves.

VISITS

Our spiritual efforts for adults are completed by house-to-house visits, the importance of which it is hardly necessary to insist on. For the most part we are made welcome and our friends seem proud to receive us. The father of one family whose children come regularly to the *Fraternité* said to one of his neighbors: "I love the people at the *Fraternité*; they come to see me in all simplicity even to sitting down by a workingman's table and talking with me as though I were one of their kind." One could not ask for more amiable words.

In our visits we receive individual confidences and are put *au courant* of family sorrows. What tragic confidences have

from time to time been entrusted to us. It is in such circumstances that we have felt above all the strength of Christ's message. To give consolation, to ease pain, something else is necessary than words, even the words of life, of love and of peace.

THE SOCIAL STUDY CIRCLE AND THE WEDNESDAY CIRCLE

These two groups continue to make progress, 85 members being enrolled in the first and 30 to 50 in the second. The two Circles, although entirely different, are nevertheless both means of évangélization. The men in particular come of their own accord to the meetings of the Social Study Circle, though they hold themselves aloof a little from other meetings. Nevertheless, they find comrades, make friends, get an idea of the work of the *Fraternité* and oftentimes become faithful attendants at all our meetings. One man of family said to me recently: "If only I had started coming sooner to the *Fraternité*! One is so much at home there." Yes, one is "at home" and we are happy at the thought that the *Foyer du Peuple* is also the *Foyer de Famille*.

CHILDREN'S WORK

This is not without its difficulties. Many children are exceedingly hard to attract and the outspoken anti-religious attitude of many parents is no help to us. One finds often among the little ones symptoms of revolt against God. For example, one of our women undertook to reprimand two little boys who were behaving and talking very badly. One of them, a small gentleman of four years, replied with no little emphasis, "Tell me where is your Good God, for I want to stone him to death!" It is hardly necessary to add that the father of this child is bitterly anti-religious.

On the whole progress is certain. Our Thursday and Sunday Schools are much quieter and lessons are learned and recited without laughter. Some of the children run after us to know if there is going to be "the Gospel," that is to say, the children's meeting. Others always bring their New Testaments with them. All of this proves that our efforts are bearing fruit. Certain fathers who have become interested in what we are doing have come to ask us to take their children also and give them religious training.

JUNIOR NEWS

Through large, grilled gates, one catches his first sight of the *Château de Coqueréaumont* and the thirty-acre Vacation Colony where thanks to Junior gifts many of the Mission's children are now spending happy summers.

Buffalo was the first to heed Miss Congdon's call, after her return last winter, with a subscription of \$900 toward the first Junior *Maisonette*. A second *Maisonette* was donated by Mrs. William C. Peyton, of New York. An additional gift of \$500 came from Mrs. Ewart G. Davies, President of the National Junior Committee, in memory of her husband's mother. Mrs. Henry F. Boardman, a Junior member of the National Board, gave \$1,000, in memory of her son, toward the water supply. The Baltimore, Philadelphia and Providence groups each furnished a bed-room as did Mrs. Richard M. Colgate, also a Junior member of the National Board. Washington equipped the new Dispensary and two isolation rooms. The Buffalo Student Juniors and the Wilmington group provided athletic equipment for the playgrounds. Flushing, Greenwich, Springfield and others, faithful to the cause of the orphans, "carry on." Add to all this the generous responses to the needs of the several Vacation Colonies from Hartford, East Orange, Easton, Minneapolis, St. Paul, New York and others and the view "through the gates" becomes a beautiful one!

Miss Congdon, the Junior Field Secretary, is planning to spend the months of October, November and December in New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island. Since her recent visit to the Mission in Paris, Miss Charlotte P. Williams, of Providence, is at the Junior headquarters and will assist Miss Congdon in the forming of new groups. Shortly after the New Year a trip to the West is planned by Miss Congdon and invitations will be welcomed.

Great plans were discussed and approved by the members of the National Junior Committee at their recent session in New York. An interesting Bulletin will be out shortly. We hear enthusiastic reports regarding Mlle Merle d'Aubigné's student meetings and caravans to the *Château* and Boats. Occasionally fifteen and sometimes thirty American students and travelers enjoy these McAll afternoons.

Even though the Mission is indebted to the Juniors for a goodly number of benefactions, M. Chastand lists the following imperative needs—

At the *Château*:

Two new <i>maisonettes</i> , each.....	\$1,600
Covered playground (<i>préau</i>).....	500
Furnishing New York Junior <i>maisonette</i>	326
Furnishing two bed-rooms, twenty beds.....	24

At Gérardmer:

Glass enclosure for the porch.....	50
Twenty-five mattresses.....	9

The Juniors ask the coöperation of every reader of the RECORD.

LE FOYER DU PEUPLE, AT LILLE

PASTOR HENRI NICK

An enumeration of our activities includes religious services on Sundays and Mondays; Bible Schools on Sundays and Thursdays; *patronages* on Thursdays, at which we are occupied with teaching and amusing the children; evangelical gatherings; prayer meetings on Saturdays and groups of young men and young women, of Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, the latter including trousseau classes and the training of our band.

Colportage in the *cafés* and from door to door brings us into direct contact with strangers and we often have interesting talks. Sometimes in the fairs we set up a table in the street. Our group of helpers then sing to the accompaniment of a little organ, or a violin, and standing on a chair we bear witness to the love of God and to His power. We sell New Testaments or a special sheet prepared by M. Benoît and of which he will have printed 10,000 copies. Rarely do we encounter anything but approbation and enthusiastic praise as we set forth a higher conception of life to those who are hearing us for the first time or confirm in their faith old friends.

During the year, we were favored with a visit by Mme Booth-Clibborn, "The Marshall," who founded the Salvation Army work in France. During her six-day stay, we rented the Hippodrome, the largest hall in the city. The audience averaged between 700 and 900 persons, for the most part unknown to us, and on Sunday two meetings were held, each time the audience reaching 1300 people. We feel that the word of life as announced by this consecrated Christian woman has left profound impressions in the city. My helpers and I took advantage of the occasion to do an intensive work of propaganda. The Lille public, always deeply absorbed in its daily work or in its pleasures, is not easily turned aside from these things. The funds needed for publicity and for the renting of the Hippodrome were collected from the audiences.

The funerals which we conduct, alas, too frequently, (a dozen during the first three months of 1929), give us an opportunity to speak words of consolation and instruction and to proclaim the name of the Saviour. If a funeral occurs on a

Saturday when workingmen and factory hands are free to come, or if some tragic circumstance such as one of the frequent factory accidents has happened, the sympathy for the afflicted family is always more manifest and the services bring together large numbers of people ready to listen to our message.

The Band of Hope continues its good work and we give our very best endeavors to our Sunday and Thursday Schools, for children are the nursery of the future. The enrollment in our schools which following the war fell off seriously has slowly been coming back to normal. We try to make these schools as attractive as possible by *tableaux* and the most telling lessons.

During the Easter holidays, but above all during the summer vacations, our vacation colonies are in operation. These schools take the children off the streets, keep them busy, delight them, but, above all, develop their interest for that which is beautiful and true and in the Gospel. The sisters of M. Benoit and Mlle Ducros have been our invaluable assistants. Thanks to God, 313 of our children were sent to the vacation colonies, in the country and by the sea. We were able to recruit a splendid body of young men and young women as counsellors and many of the children not only recovered or strengthened their physical health, but received an impulse for good which will perhaps safeguard them during their entire lives. The tiny ones were not forgotten and some of our most devoted women volunteered to care for them at the shore at Sainte Cécile where some of the cures effected were simply marvelous.

Our devoted nurses, Mlles Haffner and Maresquelle, have continued their splendid work another year. Professor and Madame Vallée remain our faithful co-workers. It has been a sorrow for us to see Mme Benoit break down under her heavy strain. She gave her strength without thought for herself but we look forward to seeing her return to us in full health. Thanks to God, but also because of the devotion of Pastor and Mme Benoit, all the work at Lille has been lifted to a higher level. The young people, in particular, have a beloved leader in M. Benoit. He knows how to emphasize that which is most essential in the Gospel and to make each one, the youngest as well as the eldest, see his responsibility.

The Blue Cross is one of the most important branches of our work. How are its members attracted to us? I asked this question one day of a man who had been a member for a year. His reply was: "The Monday of Pentecost, I was going to the fair. I heard a man speaking in the street with some comrades. An angry cabaret keeper had just gone to look for a policeman to break up the gathering. As I listened, I found that the speaker was exactly describing my case. This made me want to come to the *Foyer* which I did and since then I have been coming regularly." I remember, in fact, that that particular day some of our friends of the Blue Cross who had just returned from an anti-alcoholic meeting in Roubaix stopped to talk to the crowd before the gate of the *Foyer*. The result was not in vain. Again, a woman said to me, "Won't you come and heal my poor husband, but please do not say that it was I who asked you to do this." I went to their house and the husband, quite astonished to see me, decided to sign a pledge and has since been a saved man. Another man, in his desperation, asked us to take care of his weekly pay for him, in order that he might be kept out of temptation. Every Wednesday the members of the Blue Cross come together. They sing with enthusiasm and then one of them speaks on a Bible subject which has been announced beforehand in order that each one might prepare himself. They often surprise us by the intelligence they show in their Bible expositions. Sometimes, when we do our best in explaining the Gospel, it seems to us that the truth fails to impregnate the spirits of our hearers, or to penetrate into their hearts, but we have proved true the remark of Vinet: "One never finds the truth except as he searches for truth."

At one of our meetings, where we were discussing the "house built upon the rock," I asked one of those present if his house was so built. He replied, "not entirely, for I sometimes lose my temper." At a following meeting, his Christian conviction became absolutely complete. He found in prayer the strength to pardon a man who had insulted him. He is now entirely the master of himself and said recently to a comrade who confessed to ill-temper from time to time, "It is not possible that you read this book since you give way to anger."

GLEANINGS

1. Conscience. One of our *habitués* began in childhood to attend our Sunday School. Today he is married, the father of a family and his wife and he are two of our best helpers. It is not surprising that he has become a man of conscience. Not long since, a piece was stolen from the factory where he works and the theft could be attributed only to him or one other man. An inquiry from the superintendent brought forth this reply from his immediate boss: "I do not know if it is his companion who is guilty, but I can say without any question that he himself is not guilty, for I have never known him to lie."

2. Solidarity. One of our recent members had to send his wife to the hospital. His comrades at the *Foyer* who scarcely knew him, nevertheless, at once took his little children into their homes to care for them during the mother's illness. Happenings of this kind are frequent. Some man who is afraid he is not strong enough to stand alone will be invited to dinner and helped in other ways by his friends. A young woman suddenly came face to face with a mother who with her seven small children had been abandoned by her husband. She had been saving up some thousands of francs against a day of idleness, but these she sacrificed at once for this abandoned family.

3. Generosity. A little girl, very poor but who certainly loves God, brought me 15 francs which she had saved, as a contribution to foreign missions. A Boy Scout, learning that one of his comrades who had left the section had broken his leg, loaded his knapsack with books—all he had—and carried them a long distance to his little friend. This unexpected attention not only kept the boy amused during his confinement, but won the hearts of his entire family.

4. Children's Prayers. Two boys of fifteen have been a great help to me, both from the fact that they are always present at all our meetings and take an interest in everything we are trying to do. They assist the leader of the Wolfings with his little charges and are always ready for any service that presents itself, whether colportage or running after a comrade to bring him back to the *Foyer*.

THE SEVERE WINTER AND THE RELIEF BOXES

MME VACHON

The past winter was most trying and brought in its train more cases of misery in Paris and in the provinces than we could possibly take care of. Nevertheless, it was our great joy to forward thirty-eight packages to the Mission's different posts, to help out of hand forty-seven families and to distribute all told 3099 articles, thanks to the six boxes received from the United States, to parcels brought by American visitors and 525 garments designated as individual gifts. We thank God who has enabled us still another year to dispense so much happiness.

To quote just a few instances: In one of the Mission's posts in the North a poor family with many children of its own took pity on a little fellow of six years whose father and mother had died only a few days apart. By crowding their chairs a little the members of this family made a place for him at their table, but how were they going to clothe him when they already had all they could do to make both ends meet? The children, regular attendants at the *Fraternité*, took their adopted brother there and the young woman evangelist was able to replace the little fellow's rags with a good pair of trousers and a warm sweater as well as a pair of shoes a little worn but still strong.

A woman who formerly had had a good situation, but who was much broken by the war, by age and by illness, had already come several times to the *Vestiaire* to procure a little linen. Each time she came, she expressed the hope that she would recover her health and be able to work again and so to repay us for what we were doing for her. So sincere was her purpose in this that when she was disappointed in her hopes she could not bring herself to come back. However, her sufferings were so great and with only a single chemise left, one day she appeared in much timidity, offering us a pair of small scissors, the only thing of any value she had left. It goes without saying that we refused to take the scissors and gave her the much

needed chemise as well as a woolen sweater, for it was terribly cold and her dress was so thin.

Another poor woman whose husband had lost his reason was left alone in her struggle to bring up a boy of five years, very delicate, and from whom she would not be separated because she had already lost a little girl of seven from meningitis. She had found a very inadequate job, but one which enabled her to keep her child with her although what she earned was barely enough to feed them both. What matter, however, provided the child had enough! Then came the frightful cold and having no fire in her room, she half-stripped herself to keep the little boy warm. Maddened at the thought that he might die from the cold, she decided whatever it cost to come to us to tell her story, begging us to clothe her child, but not hinting at anything for herself. We were able to take care of them both and at once busied ourselves to find employment for the mother which would enable her to keep her boy with her. On asking us why we took so much pains on account of one we did not even know, she was astonished to hear that what we were doing was in the name and for the love of Christ. "Ah," replied she in an outburst of gratitude, "I wish that my boy might learn to love Him also, since He is so good."

Another family consisted of father, mother, two little girls of eight or ten and a baby not yet able to walk. They had to cross Paris to return to their home in a northern village, but they were so wretchedly clad that a friend of the Mission sent them to us in the hope that we might do something for them. The father and mother were both deaf mutes and the little girls had to act as interpreters. We were able to clothe them all and the parents as they set out on their journey could not express their gratitude except in tears of joy.

May these little stories taken at random suffice to show the friends of the *Vestiaire* what their coöperation has permitted us to do in the way of relieving distress, of warming hearts as well as bodies.

RECEIPTS OF THE AMERICAN McALL ASSOCIATION FROM AUXILIARIES AND CHURCHES

April 4—October 4, 1929—\$19,339.57

MASSACHUSETTS, \$628.00	
Boston Auxiliary	\$280 00
Northampton Auxiliary	36 00
Salem	150 00
Springfield Auxiliary	162 00

CONNECTICUT, \$3,450.50	
Chester	\$55 00
Greenwich Girl Reserves	72 00
Hartford Auxiliary	813 50
Estate Margaret W. Green	600 00
Hartford Junior Auxiliary	54 00
New Britain Auxiliary	36 00
New Haven Auxiliary	1,751 00
New Haven Fram	8 00
Norwich Auxiliary	51 00
Washington	10 00

NEW YORK, \$6,144.25	
Brooklyn Auxiliary	\$1,297 00
Buffalo Auxiliary	471 00
Legacy Julia A. Sherman	200 00
Flushing Junior Auxiliary	50 00
Ithaca Circle	36 00
Larchmont Auxiliary	18 50
New York Auxiliary	3,206 25
New York Junior Auxiliary	6 50
New York	25 00
Oneonta	25 00
Rochester Auxiliary	257 00
Scarsdale	50 00
Syracuse	18 00
Troy Auxiliary	400 00
Troy Fram	30 00
Utica	54 00

NEW JERSEY, \$2,609.26	
Belvidere Auxiliary	\$43 00
Elizabeth Auxiliary	257 50
Englewood	380 00
Haddonfield	18 00
Montclair Auxiliary	590 50
Morristown	72 00
Newark Auxiliary	189 00
Auxiliary of the Oranges	775 13
Plainfield Auxiliary	103 13
Princeton	181 00

PENNSYLVANIA, \$4,146.76	
Athens	\$36 00
Chester Auxiliary	108 00
Dixmont	75 00
Easton Auxiliary	64 75
French History Club	96 00
Philadelphia Auxiliary	1,984 01
Philadelphia Junior Auxiliary	175 00
Pittsburgh Auxiliary	1,000 00
Sewickley Auxiliary	205 00
Wilkes-Barre Auxiliary	403 00

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, \$642.00	
Washington Auxiliary	\$642 00

OHIO, \$36.00	
Cincinnati	\$36 00

MARYLAND, \$72.00	
Baltimore Auxiliary	\$72 00

ILLINOIS, \$516.00	
Chicago	\$430 00
Lake Forest	86 00

MICHIGAN, \$298.00	
Detroit Auxiliary	\$298 00

WISCONSIN, \$100.00	
Milwaukee Auxiliary	\$100 00

MINNESOTA, \$160.00	
Minneapolis Auxiliary	\$27 50
St. Paul Auxiliary	132 50

DELAWARE, \$14.00	
Wilmington Auxiliary	\$14 00

Anon.	\$325 50
Per American Sunday School Union	32 00
Per National Children's Auxiliary	51 00
Per Needlework Guild of America	91 00
Per Sale Christmas Cards	23 30

FORM OF BEQUEST FOR REAL ESTATE

I do give and devise to the American McAll Association the following described property.

FORM OF BEQUEST FOR PERSONAL ESTATE

I do give, devise and bequeath to the American McAll Association the sum of _____ dollars.

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